Dredging in Indian Ports by Foreign Operators

877. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the dredging is done in Indian ports by foreign operators;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total turnover in Indian rupees for the last three years;

(c) whether it is alleged that Indian dredging operators are denied level playing fields by port authorities by including special clauses in tender documents; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For certain specialized jobs, the past experience and financial capacity of the prospective bidders is included as a condition for their qualification for participating in the tender process. This is done to ensure selection of competent bidders. There is no intention of denying level playing fields to the Indian Companies.

National Waterways in the country

†878. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Waterways in the country;

(b) the number of such waterways which are being utilised for transportation and are equipped with basic facilities; and

---

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.